

REMARKS

I. Introduction

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration of the rejections contained in the Office Action of June 19, 2009 is respectfully requested.

By this amendment, claims 31, 33-45, and 47-56 have been amended and claims 29-30, 32, and 46 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter contained therein. Claims 31, 33-45, 47-56 are now pending in the application. No new matter has been added by these amendments.

The specification has been reviewed and revised. No new matter has been added by these revisions. Entry of the specification amendments is thus respectfully requested.

II. Prior Art Rejections

Currently, claims 29, 30, and 32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being unpatentable over Friedman et al. (US 6,744,800) and claim 46 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Snell (7,188,748).

The above rejections are believed to be moot in view of the cancellation of claims 29, 30, 32, and 46. Each of the remaining claims includes subject matter which the Examiner has indicated as being allowable. Specifically, on page 4 of the Office Action, claims 31, 33-45, 55, 56 are allowed, and claims 47-54 are indicated as containing allowable subject matter. Claims 47-48, 51, and 53-54 have been rewritten in independent form, and each of claims 49-50 and 52 depends from a claim which has been rewritten in independent form. Because each of the currently pending claims includes subject matter which the Examiner has indicated as being

allowable, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and action to such effect is earnestly solicited.

Should any issues remain after consideration of the response, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the Examiner's convenience.

Respectfully submitted,

Koji UCHITANI

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